

NEWS RELEASE

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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Olin Chlor-Alkali Products Receives Volunteer STAR Award

CHARLESTON – Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Mark P. Reineke, on behalf of Governor Don Sundquist, today awarded Olin Chlor-Alkali Products the **Volunteer STAR Award**. The **VOLUNTEER Safety Through Accountability and Recognition (STAR) Award** is the state's highest honor for workplace safety and health and a nationally recognized program.

Commissioner Reineke congratulated Olin employees during the ceremony held at the Charleston company. "Tennessee's VOLUNTEER STAR program participants are a select group of employers who have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs. We welcome Olin Chlor-Alkali Products into this exclusive group."

The Olin Charleston plant has around 200 employees from Bradley, McMinn, Polk, Meigs, and Hamilton counties. The Charleston site is a chemical processing plant that produces mainly chlorine and caustic soda, which are used in making a variety of products including clothing, clean water, household bleach, pharmaceuticals, antifreeze, and paint.

"From preparation through actually attaining STAR-award status, we've rediscovered the whole safety process in the plant, which has been an extremely positive exercise," said Dan Lamb, safety manager for the Olin Charleston plant. "We've developed openness with TOSHA that has resulted in a constructive relationship with that agency that we didn't have before we began working toward the STAR Award."

The Charleston facility has a Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) for injuries and illnesses of 2.02. The average TCIR for this industry type is more than twice as high at 4.1. Olin Charleston has a Days Away from Work, Restricted Activity, and/or Transfer Case Incident Rate (DART rate) of 0.54, which is 25 percent of the DART rate for this industry type (2.1).

The main objective for participation in the STAR program is the improvement of the company's safety and health program, which helps reduce accidents and injuries. The program also allows employers to be removed from programmed compliance inspection lists for a period of three years. TOSHA consultants work with companies through the internal and external review that is part of the application process.

For more information on the VOLUNTEER STAR Award program, contact TOSHA's Consultative Services office at 1-800-325-9901.

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